



Nebraska Health and Human Services
HEALTH ALERT NETWORK
Update



October 13, 2004

Further Guidance on Priority Groups for Inactivated Influenza Vaccination

In order to assist vaccine providers in the responsible use of vaccine, Nebraska state health officials, in collaboration with local health officials, developed the following guidance for more specifically defining high risk groups. Local health officials may also further prioritize these groups due to severe shortages in some areas. Thank you for your assistance in getting flu vaccine to those who need it most.

Risk Due to Chronic Medical Condition

- Chronic disorders of cardiovascular or pulmonary system (e.g. asthma, heart disease, COPD)
- Chronic metabolic disease (e.g. diabetes, renal disease, liver disease), autoimmune disorders, hemoglobinopathies, immunosuppression (e.g. chemotherapy, HIV infection)
- Residents of nursing homes, long-term care

Does not include: hypercholesterolemia, hypertension, arthritis, history of cancer but are no longer taking immunosuppressive therapy.

Risk Due to Age or Pregnancy Status

- 6-23 months
- 65 years and over
- Pregnant women
- 6 mo to 18 yrs on chronic aspirin therapy (risk of Reye's Syndrome)
- Caregivers, contacts of infants < 6 months

NOTE: Caregivers/contacts of infants < 6 mo are encouraged to obtain LAIV (FluMist®)

Health Care Providers to High Risk Patients

- Care for patients noted above (this also includes hem/onc clinics, dialysis units, nursing homes, x-ray techs working in intensive care, etc.)
- Workers in nursing homes

Does not include: EMS, clerical and administrative staff, security, housekeeping, dietary staff, etc.

NOTE: Health care workers under 50 yrs who don't care for severely immunocompromised patients in special care units are encouraged to obtain LAIV (FluMist®).

LAIV-Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (FluMist®)

- Healthy health care workers under 50 yrs who **don't** care for severely immunocompromised patients in special care units
- Caregivers/contacts of infants < 6 mo